

Q1 flexible, preferably hypo-allergenic material which, when expanded into an operative position, substantially surrounds and encloses the cart as well as its contents, thereby facilitating the maintenance of the preferred sterile environment.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q2 --During the time it takes to deliver the variety of items or products contained on such delivery carts, it is desirable to maintain, at least as much as practical, a substantially sterile environment for the storage of such items as they travel along the aforementioned delivery route. This is particularly true in hospitals and the like where some germs, bacteria and infectious diseases may be carried in and transmitted by contact with the air. In that delivery carts of the type used in hospitals normally are "open", to the extent that one or more sides of the cart comprise a plurality of openings to facilitate ready access to the products being delivered, there is a recognized need for some type of cover dimensioned and configured to somewhat protect the delivery cart as well as the contents therein. It would be beneficial if a cover were developed that could effectively isolate the contents of the cart and, as much as possible, to maintain a substantially sterile environment on the interior thereof, regardless of whether the contents of the cart are pre-packaged or not. In addition, it would be highly beneficial if a cover were developed that were

adequately structured or reinforced to the extent of significantly reducing the possibility that such a cover will be torn or ruptured which is quite possible as deliveries are made, and which would, thereby compromise the sterile environment under the cover, i.e., the interior portions of the cart and its contents. It would also be highly beneficial if a cover of the type referred to above were developed that could further aid in the maintenance of a substantially sterile environment by being formed of a flexible, strong, hypo-allergenic material which, in addition, is capable of being selectively oriented in either a collapsed, stored position or an extended, operative position wherein the operative position includes a hollow interior dimensioned to substantially cover the top and exposed sides or faces of the cart. Of course, any such cover should enable a person to easily access the contents of the cart, albeit in somewhat of a restricted manner, so as to reduce exposure of the interior portions of the cart under the cover, as well as its contents to the surrounding environment.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention is intended to address these and other needs which remain in the art, and is directed towards a cover assembly of the type designed to overlies and substantially enclose a delivery cart or like structure, such that the cart and the contents thereof are enclosed and protected. The cover assembly of

Q3 the present invention is made from a flexible, yet relatively strong and substantially protective material and in one embodiment, to be described in greater detailed hereinafter, is made from a hypo-allergenic material so as to maintain an at least partially sterile environment on the interior of the enclosure in which the cart is positioned. The hypo-allergenic material from which the enclosure of the cart assembly of the present invention is formed may be of the type commercially available under the trademark STAPH-CHEK,TM registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, namely, Reg. No. 802,786, and manufactured by Herculite Products, Inc., a corporation of New York with offices in New York City and possibly in Newark, New Jersey, as well. Naturally, equivalent hypo-allergenic materials can be utilized and are applicable for forming the enclosure of the subject cover assembly, particularly when the delivery cart of the type referred to is used in hospitals or like medical facilities for the delivery of a plurality of different products or items, at least some of which are intended to be maintained in an at least partially sterile environment. However, it is emphasized that the cover assembly of the present invention does not have to be formed of a hypo-allergenic material, as such an embodiment would still be considered to fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q4 --The cover assembly of the present invention preferably also comprises a storage assembly, including one or more pockets, located at predetermined positions, ideally located both on the exterior and interior of the cart and which are specifically structured for the containment of various items. More specifically, the storage assembly of the present invention includes at least a first pocket or compartment disposed within the hollow interior of the enclosure in a location which is readily accessible. This first pocket or compartment is also preferably formed of a hypo-allergenic material, as discussed above, and is dimensioned and configured to removably contain predetermined items or specific contents, which are best maintained in as sterile an environment as possible, during the delivery procedure. Accordingly, this first pocket or compartment serves to isolate its contents from the cart, also disposed on the interior of the enclosure, and from the exterior of the enclosure until it is delivered to its intended destination. The storage assembly may also include one or more additional pockets or compartments mounted on the exterior surface of the sidewall structure which are specifically structured to removably contain a variety of other products, items or contents, as desired.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q5 --Figure 2 is a detailed view in partial cutaway of one portion of the embodiment of Figure 1.--

Q3 [Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 21]
with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--Figure 3 is a detailed view in partial cutaway of another
portion of the structure of the embodiment of Figure 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q4 --Figure 5 is a perspective view in partial cutaway showing
interior portions of a preferred cover assembly according to the
present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q7 --As shown in the accompanying drawings, the present invention
relates to a cover assembly such as that generally indicated as 10
in Figure 1. The cover assembly 10 includes an enclosure generally
indicated as 12 comprising a sidewall 14 disposed in substantially
surrounding relation so as to form a hollow interior of the
enclosure 12. Further, the enclosure 12 includes a top 16 secured
to the sidewall 14 such that the sidewall 14 extends in a
downwardly depending relation to the top 16. The sidewall 14 may
include a plurality of individual panels or sides or alternatively,
may include a continuous structure of sufficient dimension to
overlie and cover substantially the entire outer portion or
plurality of sides of a mobile cart generally indicated as 20.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

on --As set forth above, one feature of the present invention is the at least partial isolation of the hollow interior of the enclosure 12 in order maintain a substantially sterile environment therein for the various items or contents separately stored on cart 20 as they are being delivered. Therefore, the cover assembly 10 of the present invention includes a closure structure, generally indicated as 30, preferably in the form of a flexible material drape 32, which may have a variety of configurations but which is specifically dimensioned and configured to be selectively disposed in covering relation to the access opening 26. Preferably, the drape 32 is secured by a connecting seam or junction 34 to the top 16 or to the sidewall 14 and hangs downwardly therefrom into removably covering relation to the access opening 26. In addition, due at least in part to the flexible material from which the drape 32 is formed, it may be easily positioned between a completely closed position, defined by an overlying relation to an exposed face or portion of the cart 20, or a partially open position as depicted in Figure 1. Therefore, an advantage of utilizing a drape 32 as the closure structure is that only a portion of the hollow interior within the enclosure 12 may be exposed for removal or insertion of various items or contents from or into the cart 20, as required. It is, of course, to be noted that the drape 32 may be selectively positioned into an entirely open position in order to expose the entire, correspondingly positioned face or side of the

Q7 cart 20, such as when the cart is being initially loaded for delivery or distribution of a plurality of different items.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q8 --The closure assembly 10 of the present invention preferably also comprises a reinforcing assembly, which may be, but does not have to be, mounted both on the exterior and interior surfaces of the enclosure 12. The purpose of the reinforcing assembly is to provide protection against physical damage to various parts of the enclosure 12; such as when it inadvertently engages a wall, door, becomes entangled with another object, surface, etc. as the cart and closure assembly 10 travel along the intended delivery or distribution route. The reinforcing assembly includes a plurality of reinforced portions such as, but not limited to, corner pads 40 formed on the top 16. The corner pads 40 serve to protect the enclosure against stress or forces exerted on the cover assembly 10 in a downward direction as the top 16 is disposed in overlying, covering and at least partially engaging relation to an upper portion of the cart 20. For example, the corner pads 40 may be positioned on the top 16 so as to overly the corners of a support frame of the cart, which serve to support the enclosure 12 in the intended overlying, surrounding relation to the cart. The reinforcement assembly may comprise alternatively or in addition, a plurality of reinforced portions 42 disposed at each of the corners of the enclosures such as at the lower end of the drape 32

so as to provide reinforcing protection as well as serve as additional "weights", due to their structure. The additional weight facilitates the downwardly depending orientation of the preferred drape 32 in its intended position over the corresponding face of the cart 20 and into its closed position in covering relation to the access opening 26. As shown in Figure 2, the reinforced portions 42 are preferably mounted on the interior surface 32' of the drape 32 adjacent certain ones of the connector components 34'. The provision of the reinforced portions 42 further serve to add protection against the pulling force exerted on the drape as it is disconnected from correspondingly positioned connector members or components 34 mounted on the exterior of the sidewall 14, as shown in Figure 1 and discussed above. Correspondingly positioned reinforced portions 44 may also be mounted on the interior or exterior surface at the lower end of the exposed face of the sidewall 14' in which the access opening 26 is formed. These correspondingly positioned reinforced portions 44 are also provided to resist the pulling forces exerted on the sidewall segment 14', as the drape 30 is pulled into its open or at least partially open position as represented in Figure 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A⁹ --With reference to Figures 2 through 4, 6 and 7, each of the reinforced portions, including the peripheral seam 48 as well as the other reinforced portions 40 and 42, are primarily defined by

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a thickened material portion, comprising at least one additional layer of material being affixed in overlying relation to a layer of material defining the corresponding portion of the enclosure 12. For example, in the sectional views of Figures 6 and 7, one of the corner pads 40 is defined by a thickened material portion including a layer of material representing the corner pads 40 being disposed in secured relation over (or under) the layer of material defining the top 16. Similarly in Figure 7, the reinforced portion 42 is preferably disposed in fixed relation over the interior surface 32' of the drape 32 immediately adjacent to certain ones of the connector components 34'.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--A protective cover assembly for a cart and it's contents of the type used in hospitals and like medical facilities for the temporary storage and delivery of a plurality of items which should be maintained in a substantially sterile environment. The cover assembly comprises an enclosure formed from a flexible, preferably hypo-allergenic material dimensioned to receive substantially the entire cart therein. A plurality of reinforced portions are secured to the enclosure and are structured to prevent rupture or other physical damage thereto. A storage assembly comprises one or more compartments including at least one interior pocket disposed and structured to isolate the contents thereof.--
